



# US Coast Guard Operational Summary 09 September 2005

## Hurricane KATRINA Operations

*Within the Coast Guard, current information updates are available via the CGHQ Intranet Special Notices site at: <http://cgweb.comdt.uscg.mil/g-opf/katrina%20updates/>*

## COAST GUARD HURRICANE KATRINA STATISTICS

As of 08 September:

- The US Coast Guard has rescued over 33,309 people.
- Total aircraft rescues to date: 12,528
- Total surface rescues to date: 11,381
- Total hospital evacuations: 9,400
- 54 Coast Guard aircraft and 14 Coast Guard Auxiliary aircraft have flown over 7,000 flight hours in support of Hurricane KATRINA response.



NEW ORLEANS (Sept. 7, 2005)-- A Coast Guard rescue swimmer from Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City, N.J., prepares an elderly man and woman for transport to safety.

CLEARWATER (Sept. 7, 2005) - At least 1,000 times in the last nine days, a crew from the Clearwater Coast Guard Air Station has plucked a hurricane survivor from a roof. After some of them returned Wednesday, they recalled an amazing experience. The first day was the roughest, many said. There were so many people to rescue that sometimes they didn't know who to pick first.

"To see people on rooftops desperate to get out of there, it was unbelievable," observed Lt. JG Jason Harrell.



The devastation was more than the guardsmen had ever seen, and the rescue conditions were so dangerous that they changed some of the rules: hovering right over the people while picking them up, and taking the healthy first so they can help with the injured, coming up last.

"I remember that first day we had, at one time, four Coast Guard HH-60's and three Coast Guard HH-65's all in one city block. Things we would never normally do," Lt. Cmdr. Eric Johnson recalled.

For every rescue mission, there's a support plane flying behind it. Every plane based in Clearwater has been up and back to the hurricane zone, putting in a total of almost 500 hours of flying. The large HC-130's have taken food and personnel as well. Each night, it's back to the hangar to be prepped for the next day.

"It makes me feel good. This is why I joined the Coast Guard. This is our mission and we've always done it, and now it's really being shown what we're capable of doing. I go home feeling good about myself," offered John Bucaria.



*This C-130 was flying a load of water to hurricane victims on Wednesday.*

***There is so much to be done in the hurricane zone that the Coast Guard will keep flying such missions for the foreseeable future. Another load of supplies was shipped out Wednesday morning, and while seven helicopters are on scene in Alabama, two helicopters remain on site in Clearwater for any local rescues.***

## **Homeland Security Operations**

### ***EIGHT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS - SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA***

On 07 September, CG Pacific Area Tactical Law Enforcement Team and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel conducted a joint boarding of a 35-ft pleasure craft with nine people aboard. During questioning, eight passengers, three Chinese and five Mexican nationals, admitted to being illegal immigrants. The immigrants were transferred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement for processing. The owner/operator of the vessel is a US citizen and was detained by CBP for questioning.

## **Coast Guard Operations**

### ***SEARCH AND RESCUE – PLEASURE CRAFT AUGUSTA D - ADRIFT OFF OF NIKOLSKI, ALASKA***

On 08 September, CG Marine Safety Detachment Unalaska reported that the charter vessel AUGUSTA D was unable to return to Nikolski on Unimak Island, AK, due to 40-kt winds. The AUGUSTA D was chartered by the Outdoor Living Network (OLN) for the filming of the show "North to Alaska." The vessel had six people aboard including the host, NFL Football Hall of

Famer, Larry Csonka. CG District 17 Command Center diverted the CG Cutter STORIS, a 230-ft Medium Endurance cutter, and launched a CG Air Station Kodiak HH-60 Medium Range Recovery helicopter and an HC-130 Long Range Surveillance aircraft. After refueling in Cold Bay, the HH-60 arrived on scene, hoisted all people aboard, and transported them to Nikolski. STORIS is en route the vessel to secure it in a safe anchorage out of the shipping lanes.

### **On this day in Coast Guard History**

In 1942, the Coast Guard-manned USS MUSKEGET sank without a trace while conducting a weather patrol. Her entire crew of nine officers and 111 enlisted men were lost. It was learned after the war that she had been torpedoed by the U-755.



**USS MUSKEGET, 17 February 1942 (Photo courtesy of D.M. McPherson).**